GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
LABOUR
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5307
ANSWERED ON:23.04.2001
ACCIDENTS IN COAL AND NON COAL MINES FACTORIES
RAMJI MANJHI;SHEESH RAM SINGH RAVI

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is an increase in the number of accidents in coal and non-coal mines and harbours and factories;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the steps taken by the Government to minimise these accidents; and

(d) the facilities provided to the family members of the labours/workers who die in mine and other accidents?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI MUNI LALL)

(a) : No, Sir.

(b) : Does not arise.

(c) : Provisions for safety of persons employed in mines are contained in the Mines Act, 1952 and the Rules and Regulations framed thereunder. The Directorate General of Mines Safety (DGMS) also issues guidelines in the form of circulars to the management for improving safety measures. These provisions are required to be complied with by the mine managements. The officers of the DGMS inspect the mines periodically to oversee the status of compliance with the safety provisions, and to take action as provided for under the Mines Act, 1952, in case of default. Besides the legislative measures, the Government is promoting a number of other initiatives, such as:-

(i) Conference on safety in mines;

(ii) Self-regulation by managements;

(iii) Workers` participation in safety management;

(iv) Tripartite and Bipartite reviews at various levels;

(v) Training of work persons;

(vi) Observance of safety weeks and Safety compaigns;

(vii) National Safety Awards.

The provisions of Safety and Health of workers employed in Factories are contained in the Factories Act, 1948. Specific provisions relating to safety and hazardous Processes are contained in Chapter IV and IV-A of the Act. In order to ensure the compliance of the provisions of the Act, the Factory inspectors visit the factories and conduct inspections. In case of contravention the Occupier/Manager of the factory are prosecuted and cases launched in appropriate courts.

As regards the safety of Dock workers, the Dock Workers (Safety, Health, and Welfare) Act, 1986 is applicable in major ports. The Inspector of Dock Safety enforces the provisions of the said Act. The Inspector of Dock Safety undertake inspection of ships/docks/hazardous installations including pipelines regularly. Wherever any deviations/shortcomings are observed, the same is immediately brought to the notice of the concerned authorities in order to rectify the deviations and to improve the working conditions.

The safety laws relating to Mines, Docks and Factories are kept under constant review and amended from time to time.

(d) The amount of compensation and other facilities are paid to the injured or family of the deceased under the Workmen`s

Compensation Act, 1923 and the Employees State Insurance Corporation Act, 1948,the implementation of which falls under the jurisdiction of the State Governments.